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EXCISE

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ACTION NEA-11
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-15 OIC-02
CIAE-00 EB-08 H-01 IO-15 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06
TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 OMB-01 SSM-03 INRE-00 SAL-01
ACDA-12 SSN-02 SP-02 SPRS-02 /121 W
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O 121745Z JUN 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7694
INFO DIA WASHINGTON DC//
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WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 09378
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
E.O. 12065: RDS-3, 6/12/91 (BROWN, WILLIAM A.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, MASS, IS, US, IZ
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 09378 01 OF 02 121813Z
SUBJECT: BEGIN BLASTS WEINBERGER BUT DOWNPLAYS TENSION IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS
REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 9198; (B) TEL AVIV 9282

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J. L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☑
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part
PA or (FOI) EXEMPTIONS B-1

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. [redacted] PRIME MINISTER BEGIN LAST NIGHT ACCUSED U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER OF BEING "THE CULPRIT WHO ATTEMPTED TO DENY ISRAEL ALL MILITARY AID." IN A LONG EMOTIONAL ADDRESS, BEGIN ALSO CHARACTERIZED LABOR CHIEF SHIMON PERES AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS, AS WEINBERGER'S ACCOMPLICES, ADDING, LABOR HAS BEHAVED IN AN INCONCEIVABLY ANTI-NATIONAL AND ANTI-PATRIOTIC MANNER, FOR WHICH THEY ALONE DESERVE TO BE

B-1

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PUNISHED BY THE VOTER AT THE POLLS." [redacted] b-1 ED

3. THIS PERCEPTION ALSO CHARACTERIZES REPORTS OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MEETING WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR EFRAIM EVRON IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY ASSURED EVRON THAT NO FUNDAMENTAL REASSESSMENT OF U.S.-ISRAELI TIES WILL TAKE PLACE. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ARE INTERPRETED HERE AS REFLECTING THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO REASSURE ISRAEL THAT HIS DECISION TO SUSPEND THE F-16 DELIVERIES AND HIS CONDEMNATION OF THE ISRAELI ATTACK SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS LEADING TO A SEVERE STRAIN IN OVERALL U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

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4. THE PRESS CONTINUES TO BE DOMINATED BY THE AFTERMATH OF THE IAF RAID ON IRAQ AND THE USG SUSPENSION OF SHIPMENTS OF F-16S TO ISRAEL, MAINLY FOCUSING ON ISRAELI REACTIONS TO THE SUSPENSION AND THE AMERICAN FORCES BEHIND IT. THE GENERAL VIEW THAT CONTINUES TO COME THROUGH IS THAT, DESPITE THE INITIAL SURPRISE AT THE HARSHNESS OF U.S. REACTION TO THE RAID, THE SANCTIONS ARE TEMPORARY AND ARE INTENDED TO SAVE FACE FOR THE AMERICANS WORLDWIDE, ESPECIALLY IN THE ARAB WORLD. THE FACT THAT BEGIN DOES NOT PLAN TO CALL IN AMBASSADOR LEWIS IS SEEN BY ONE LEADING COMMENTATOR AS AN INDICATION THAT ISRAEL FEELS THE ENTIRE EPISODE WILL SOON BLOW OVER AND DOES NOT WANT TO OVERDRAMATIZE IT.

5. COMMENT: [redacted] b-1

IN A COMMENTARY TODAY, HA'ARETZ WRITER ELIAHU SALPETER SEES AN APPARENT CLASH OF INTERESTS BETWEEN WEINBERGER AND HAIG IN INFLUENCING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DECISIONS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST. WEINBERGER, WITH HIS FORMER HEAVY BUSINESS INTERESTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE "CALIFORNIA GROUP" SURROUNDING THE PRESIDENT S

SEEN AS ABLE TO INFLUENCE OTHER ADVISORS' OPINIONS.
HAIG IS CAST AS THE "GOOD GUY," SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL
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	ACDA-12	SSN-02	SP-02	SPRS-02	/121 W		

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 09378
IN THIS SCENARIO, YET UNABLE TO OVERRIDE WEINBERGER'S
INFLUENCE. END COMMENT. LEWIS
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